

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-20, 46-55, and 57-122 without prejudice.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-20. (cancelled)
21. (original): A collar, comprising:
 - a body;
 - arms extending from the body, each arm comprising internal threading, wherein each arm has an end distal from the body, and wherein the end of each arm comprises an outer flange configured to couple to a detachable member; and
 - a slot between the arms, wherein the slot is configured to receive an elongated member.
22. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein the detachable member comprises a sleeve.
23. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein the body of the collar is configured to couple to a bone fastener such that the bone fastener can angulate with respect to the collar.
24. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein the body of the collar is configured to couple to a ring.
25. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein the detachable member is configured to couple to the flanges above the elongated member.
26. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein an effective diameter of the body exceeds an

effective diameter of the arms.

27. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein at least one of the flanges comprises an indentation, and wherein the indentation is configured to allow radial orientation of a detachable member relative to the collar.

28. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein at least one of the flanges comprises an indentation, and wherein the indentation is configured to allow the detachable member to be secured in position relative to the collar.

29. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein at least one of the flanges comprises an indentation, and wherein the indentation allows a channel in the detachable member to be aligned with the slot in the collar.

30. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein the internal threading in the arms is configured to engage external threading of a closure member, and wherein the closure member is configured to secure the elongated member to the collar.

31. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein the collar comprises one or more threaded openings proximate at least one of the flanges, wherein one or more of the threaded openings is configured to engage movable members coupled to the detachable member.

32. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein the internal threading comprises a female modified thread, and wherein the female modified thread comprises a female proximal surface and a female distal surface, and further comprising a closure member comprising a male modified thread, wherein the male modified thread comprises a male proximal surface and a male distal surface, and wherein the male proximal surface of the closure member is configured to couple with the female distal surface of the collar, and wherein the female proximal surface and the male distal surface each comprise at least one raised portion, and wherein one or more surfaces of such raised portions are configured to couple during use to inhibit radial expansion of

the collar.

33. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein the internal threading comprises a female modified thread, wherein the female modified thread comprises a female distal surface, and further comprising a closure member comprising a male modified thread, wherein the male modified thread comprises a male proximal surface, wherein the male proximal surface is configured to slope at a forward angle, wherein the male proximal surface is configured to couple with the female distal surface during use, and wherein the male proximal surface and the female distal surface each comprises a raised portion, wherein the raised portions are configured to contact each other during use to inhibit separation of the arms.

34. (original): The collar of claim 21, wherein the flanges are located such that the detachable member can couple to the collar above the elongated member.

35. (original): A system, comprising:
a collar, comprising:
a body configured to couple to a bone fastener such that the body, once coupled, can at least partially rotate relative to the bone fastener;
arms extending from the body, each arm comprising internal threading; and
a slot between the arms, wherein the slot is configured to receive an elongated member;
a sleeve; and
wherein the collar is configured to couple to the sleeve above the elongated member.

36. (original): The system of claim 35, wherein the body of the collar, once coupled to the bone fastener, can at least partially angulate relative to the bone fastener.

37. (original): The system of claim 35, wherein the internal threading of the collar is configured to couple to a closure member.

38. (original): The system of claim 35, wherein each arm of the collar comprises a flange,

wherein the flanges are configured to couple to the sleeve such that the sleeve can be coupled in a selected orientation relative to the flange.

39. (original): The system of claim 35, wherein each arm of the collar comprises a flange, wherein the sleeve comprises one or more channels, and wherein the flanges are configured to couple to the sleeve such that the sleeve can be coupled such that at least one of the channels is substantially aligned with the slot of the collar.

40. (original): A collar, comprising:
a body configured to couple to a bone fastener such that the body, once coupled, can at least partially rotate relative to the bone fastener;
arms extending from the body;
a slot between the arms, wherein the slot is configured to receive an elongated member; wherein the collar is configured to couple to a sleeve above the elongated member; and wherein the arms of the collar have a smaller effective diameter than a bottom of the collar.

41. (original): The collar of claim 40, wherein each arm comprises a flange, and wherein the flanges are configured to couple to the sleeve.

42. (original): The collar of claim 40, wherein each arm comprises internal threading configured to couple to a closure member.

43. (original): The collar of claim 40, wherein the body is configured to couple to a ring such that the ring, once coupled, can rotate relative to the collar.

44. (original): The collar of claim 40, wherein the collar is configured to rotate and angulate with respect to the bone fastener.

45. (original): A closure member, comprising:

a male modified thread configured to couple with a female modified thread in an opening in a collar;

wherein the female modified thread comprises a female proximal surface and a female distal surface;

wherein the male modified thread comprises a male proximal surface and a male distal surface, and wherein the male proximal surface of the closure member is configured to couple with the female distal surface of the collar; and

wherein the female proximal surface and the male distal surface each comprise at least one raised portion, and wherein one or more surfaces of such raised portions are configured to couple during use to inhibit radial expansion of the collar during use.

46-55. (cancelled)

56. (original): A closure member, comprising:

a male modified thread configured to couple to a female modified thread on an inside surface of a collar comprising arms and a body;

wherein the arms define a bore comprising the female modified thread, and wherein the female modified thread comprises a female distal surface;

wherein the male modified thread comprises a male proximal surface, wherein the male proximal surface is configured to slope at a forward angle, and wherein the male proximal surface is configured to couple with the female distal surface during use; and

wherein the male proximal surface comprises a raised portion and wherein the female distal surface comprises a raised portion, and wherein the raised portions are configured to contact each other during use to inhibit separation of the arms.

57-122. (cancelled)